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MARYLAND SHIFTED TO SOUTHEASTERN REGION FOR FEDERAL CONSERVATION WORK

The Department of the Interior today approved the transfer of the State of Maryland from Region 5 to Region 4 for Federal fish and wildlife conservation purposes, Acting Secretary Clarence A. Davis announced this afternoon.

Effective July 1 this year, the transfer is the result of recommendations by the Fish and Wildlife Service, based on requests from officials of Maryland and a number of southeastern States.

The principal reason for the transfer is to coordinate Federal work in Maryland with that of southeastern States and especially Virginia, Maryland's neighbor, which is in Region 4 and concerned essentially with the same fish and wildlife conservation problems. Region 5 is considered a northeastern area.

While Maryland is frequently referred to as a "border" State, its major conservation interests are similar, for the most part, to those of Virginia and other southeastern States. Maryland and Virginia have interdependent interests in such important commercial and sport resources as fish, crabs, oysters, and waterfowl concentrations. Many of Maryland's resource management practices and regulatory policies resemble those of the States to the south. The recent acceptance by the State of Maryland of an invitation to join the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissioners is further evidence that Maryland's fish and wildlife activities are related to those of the southeastern States.

In commenting on the transfer, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, John L. Farley, said: "From the standpoint of concentrating in a single region those States which have similar conservation problems, the transfer is unquestionably logical and sound. This move, I am sure, will prove beneficial to the Service, the States of Maryland and Virginia, and the southeast in general."

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